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Minuteman

Vol. XXXII, No. 4 Lexington High School, Lexington, Mass. February 9, 1998

Photo by Carl Tortola

HANDY MEN - Seniors Chris Beltz and Tim Shugert show that you don't need Valentine's Day to reveal your true feelings.

Senate overturns Lanoue Veto, Passes Review Bill

By Jason Hirschhorn

On January 21 the Student-Faculty Senate decided to override Principal Philip Lanoue's veto of returning to the former Extracurricular Substance Use Policy. Students, some faculty members, and parents will represent the Senate at an upcoming School Committee meeting to determine the final outcome of this policy.

The override process has not been used since the 1991-92 school year when the Senate passed the Condom Availability Bill which made packages containing free condoms and educational materials available at school. Some parents protested against the bill because they felt it encouraged their children to have sexual intercourse. However, the School Committee decided in favor of the Senate, recognizing that the condoms would help protect the students in actions that they would likely participate in regardless of whether condoms were available.

With a unanimous vote the Student-Faculty Senate had overturned the new Extracurricular Substance Use Policy on October 30. The Senate moved to return to the 1996-97 policy which states that a student can only be punished by the school for being in possession or under the influence of a controlled substance on school grounds or at school-sponsored functions. On November 4, Principal Philip Lanoue vetoed the revised bill. If a three-fourths majority of the Senate votes to overrule Lanoue's veto then the issue will be debated at a School Committee meeting.

"We're actually doing something. We passed a lot of bills this year."

-Senator Caitlin Rollins

Last spring the School Council accepted, without Senate input, the new policy which extended MIAA regulations to all students, even when they are off school grounds. The policy states that any student, not just any athlete, found possessing, under the influence of, or trying to buy or sell a controlled substance (alcohol, drugs, nitrous oxide) "during the school year" will "lose eligibility in all activities" for periods ranging from two to twelve weeks depending on the frequency of violations. Officers in student government or school-sponsored organizations found in violation of the Substance Use Policy will have their positions revoked.

The Senate proposed a revision to the current School Council policy on the grounds that it allowed the school to overstep its bounds as an educating facility and that the school should not have the power to punish students for what happens off school grounds. The policy puts students in double jeopardy where they would be punished by the law and the school. Furthermore, the Senate reasoned that the penalties had no connection with the actual violation and the definition of a violation was unclear.

Lanoue vetoed the policy and stated, "I will not approve a change in the policy until the School Council reviews the proposed changes. When the School Council approved this policy, it was understood that the rule would be reviewed in the spring. I will bring a copy of the proposed Senate bill for discussion when the handbook is reviewed this year. We can discuss your rationale and wording

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Out with the New - Ken Weinstein reminisces about the seven day schedule. p. 4

Running to Win - Girls' Track looks to be League Champs. p 8

Senate approves BSU petition for open seat

By Amie Shei

On January 8, the LHS Student-Faculty Senate unanimously passed the Black Student Union's petition for a Senate seat. Article II, section 4 of the Senate Constitution allows "groups who feel that they are not represented in [the election process]" to petition for one of five open seats. Seniors Asmeret Teweldebrahan and Khadijah Jones will share the BSU's seat.

The BSU initially approached the Senate because, as Teweldebrahan explained, "METCO wants to be part of Senate. We are a big voice in the community that needs to be heard, and this is a good forum for that, where we can represent ourselves."

The main objection to the petition seemed to be an issue of constitutionality. The open seats are available for those not represented in the normal election process such as LABBB students, custodians, secretaries, and members of the administration; BSU members are part of that normal election process, yet none of them chose to run for a Senate seat last spring.

According to the Senate Constitution's framers, the original intent of the clause was to include as many different groups as possible, so the issue of constitutionality was dismissed. "The whole idea [behind the inclusion clause] was for the Senate to be more pro-active in reaching out to groups that might not otherwise be represented," said history teacher Sam Kafrissen.

Jones said, "I can understand why they [senators and students] were distraught [by the

BSU, *continued on page 2*

Junior Writers Named to National Competition

By Jason LeeKeenan

While Lexington High School is well known nationally for its academic accomplishments in math, science and debate, the writers of Lexington High School have been earning national recognition in the past few years. Each year, nominated students from high schools around the nation may contend for Achievement Awards in Writing, sponsored by the National Council Teachers of English (NCTE). Members of the Lexington High School English faculty recently selected LHS's representatives for the 1998 NCTE competition.

NCTE, *continued on page 3*

Photo by Omar Moussa

TAKING A STAND - Seniors Asmeret Teweldebrahan and Khadijah Jones (not shown) will represent the BSU in the Senate.

Photo by Caroline Loomis

HUH? - Senior Carl Tortola ponders senior Rasheed Townes's comment while Townes basks in Tortola's confusion.

Senate attendance record

Class of '98
Zeke Yusah: 1 absence, excused
Alice Lin: 2 absences, unexcused
Caroline Kim: 2 absences, unexcused
Andrew Bechtel: 2 absences, unexcused
Josh Magri: 3 absences, unexcused
Tim Attanucci: 1 absence, excused
David Lee: 0 absences

Class of '99
Abbe Barg: 0 absences
Taylor Carroll: 4 absences, unexcused
Stephany Collamore: 0 absences
Jason Hirschhorn: 0 absences
Claire Cuno: 1 absence, unexcused
Ami Karkar: 0 absences
Heidi Manschreck: 0 absences

Class of '00
Kaytrue Ting: 0 absences
Josh Champney: 0 absences
Aaron Edelstein: 2 absences, unexcused
David Mandle: 11 absences, unexcused (he has resigned)
Tanaz Sharifnia: 0 absences
Karen Choi: 1 absence, unexcused
Courtney Benson: 0 absences

Class of '01
Chris Ranjitker: 0 absences
Stephanie Skier: 1 absence, unexcused
Jackie Ou: 1 absence, unexcused
Will Andress: 2 absences, unexcused
Mike Smith: 0 absences
Lila Cohen: 0 absences

Faculty
Girondel, Moakley, Cordero, Bell, Bogart, Vogel, Fiveash, Pohlman have 0 absences
Kafrissen and Saradjian each have 1, unexcused

-Compiled by Heidi Manschreck

BSU gains open Senate seat

BSU, *continued from page 1*

approval of a BSU seat even though none of its members had run], but our intention [in attending meetings] wasn't to get a seat." She "[had] consider[ed]" running last spring but "got lazy [and] didn't want to get all those signatures." Earlier this year Jones decided to attend the X-block Senate meetings "not just for the BSU but for myself." She went to "voice [her] concerns and take notes." Jones also remarked that, "I am going to tell Sharita [Bernier, president of the BSU,] that next year they have to run to get a seat."

In the past, LABBB students and members of the International Students' Association have petitioned and obtained an open seat. Only once in its eleven-year history has the Senate rejected a petition.

News Briefs

FIVE NAMED PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR CANDIDATES

Tim Attanucci, Eun Young Choi, Sarah Park, Jeremy Silber, and Sheaumei Tsai have recently been named candidates in the 1998 Presidential Scholars Program. The 2,600 candidates were selected from more than 2.5 million students expected to graduate from U.S. high schools in 1998.

Now in its 35th year, the Presidential Scholars Program is one of the highest honors bestowed upon graduating high school seniors. Scholars are selected on the basis of superior academic and artistic achievements, leadership qualities, strong character, and involvement in community and school activities.

Senate shows muscle by overturning Lanoue veto, passing Policy Review Bill

SENATE, *continued from page 1*

at this time and have a better idea of its impact, both positive and negative." The Senate has invited School Council members to senate meetings.

The School Council did not present the new Extracurricular Substance Use Policy to the Senate or to any large body of students before accepting it last spring. Because of the obvious lack of student input in the School Council's decision, Senate Moderator Tim Attanucci proposed the Policy Review Bill which would ensure that the Senate was informed before a policy change occurred. The bill proposes that any change to the student/parent handbook must be submitted to Senate for review. The Senate would then have the option to discuss the proposed change as a resolution or a bill within two meetings.

The rationale for this bill is that it "...facilitates communication through policy and allows for an official record of Senate opinions on all school decisions..." The Senate passed the Policy Review Bill on November 20 and is waiting for Lanoue's decision.

Many senators hope that the Senate's pro-student actions will dispel the sentiment that Senate is elitist or useless. One senior commented, "It seems like the Senate didn't do anything last year." Senior senator Caitlin Rollins said, "We're actually doing something. We passed a lot of bills this year."

Although some students find merit in the School Council's policy most find it unfair. Junior Malika Mundkur thought the policy would be "a very effective method for deterring underage substance use." But junior Christie Ludwig disagreed: "This policy isn't likely to deter underage substance abuse and is too controlling . . . it tries to punish students for decisions made in their personal lives." Junior Chris Nasson added, "If the offenses aren't occurring in school than the school has no right to punish the students by enforcing school rules outside of school." Sophomore Luke O'Reilly agreed, "Extracurricular activities don't have anything to do with actions outside of school. Anything outside of school that is a violation of the law should be dealt with by the police."

Future of LHS in Question Regarding Renovations

by Evan Harris

In December, Lexington voters soundly defeated the proposed $68.2 million Proposition 2 1/2 override tofund major capital improvements in the community's schools. The Musket, in response to this and other events, interviewed Superintendent Jeffrey Young regarding his thoughts on the short and long term future of the high school's capital improvement program.

Musket: What message do you think the voters of Lexington sent last month to the selectmen and the school committee?
Young: The message was that the cost for the project was too high. The voters wouldn't increase their taxes to the extent necessary to fund the project as it was proposed. The voters asked the School Committee to present an alternative project that would be less costly. I still have a tremendous amount of faith that the citizens of Lexington will understand that the needs of the school buildings will not disappear, and that they are asking us to revise the plans and to make them less costly. Two alternative proposals are being prepared for consideration by Town Meeting in March. One proposal at an cost of approximately 2.6 million dollars would be implemented if another Proposition 2 1/2 override is planned. Another alternative, at a cost of approximately 5 million dollars would be implemented if no additional override is anticipated and therefore no additional funds would be available in the immediate future.

With respect to the high school, the 2 1/2 million dollar school article includes the renovation of the former industrial arts wing of Lexington High School into additional classroom spaces, as well as relocating the early childhood center out of the high school. The plan includes the purchase of furniture and equipment for these new spaces. The plan also includes the replacement of the roofs on G and H buildings at the high school. The more extensive program also includes parking and roadway re-surfacing and lighting for high school parking lots. The two plans also include similar improvements to some of the community's elementary schools and administration building as well as the purchase of 13 portable classrooms for various locations.
Musket: Will the timing and approval of either of these proposals allow ample time for implementation of these improvements by next September?
Young: Neither of these proposals makes major renovations to the high school. The most urgent needs will be attended to prior to the opening of school next fall.
Musket: In a previous Musket interview with Lexington High School Principal Philip Lanoue, he asserted that next year's increase of over 100 students at the high school, combined with state mandated curriculum updates, cannot be easily accommodated without more extensive improvements at the high school. Will either of these two proposed plans accommodate the increased space needs of the high school?
Young: The reconfiguration of the old industrial arts wing at the high school and the relocation of the early child development program at the high school will cre ate enough space, and we are hopeful that this space will get us through the next year or two, but [they] will not address long term needs.
Musket: If these changes are

FUTURE, *continued on page 6*

Photo by Dan Myung

HOMEFRONT - This familiar view of LHS could be just a memory if Lexington voters ever decide to accept revised renovation plans.

History Day flops while Kollen's class flourishes

By Ram Gowda, Sarah Park, and Ami Karkar

History doesn't always repeat itself, especially when it comes to history research. Due to the paucity of advertising and classroom push, relatively few students participated in Lexington High School's fourth annual History Day competition. In contrast, Richard Kollen's Investigating American History class has been exciting students and Lexington citizens about independent history research for two years running.

On a recent Sunday afternoon, seniors taking Investigating American History discussed varied aspects of Lexington's past in a presentation of their research papers. The February 1 presentation gave the seniors an opportunity to share what their semester-long individual research had produced with an audience of teachers, local residents, and members of the Lexington Historical Society.

The gamut of topics ran from such encompassing ones as Jessica Tsai's study of Lexington's homefront and patriotism during WWII to such focused ones as Oliver Sellers-Garcia's history of the Lexington Flick theater. Students utilized a variety of sources, including issues of the *Minuteman*, old *Muskets* and yearbooks, Town Hall records, Historical Society archives, and even interviews with Lexington residents who had lived through the very events students were writing about.

Many members of the audience, including local historian S. Lawrence Whipple, Lexington selectman Dan Fenn, and local nonagenerian Neil Cronin, were invaluable in providing both information and advice for students' papers.

The papers were the final project of the semester-long course in which students selected a particular facet of local history to explore and research while studying techniques of historical investigation and applying them to their own work. The students' research papers will be available on the Internet at the town's web site and at Cary Memorial and the school library.

In the past, the large number of [group presentation] participants forced many to set up their display boards on the floor due to crowding. This year only three groups entered the competition.

This year's number of tabletop presentation competitors highlighted the discrepancy in History Day participation. In the past, the large number of participants forced many to set up their display boards on the floor due to crowding. This year only three groups entered the competition. Selected to represent LHS at the regional History Day in Belmont in March are: Naomi Goodman, Elizabeth Shapiro, Dramatic Presentation; Ami Karkar and Eleanor Finnegan, Group Tabletop Presentation; Rachel Rutishauser, Josh Lynn, Laura Beth Chamberlain, Katherine Fisher, Becky Dedrick, Adam Ghory, Emily Handlin, Ken Weinstein, and Maggie Allan, Research Paper.

Mario's or Bertucci's: which one is the best Italian eatery in town?

By Sarah Platt and Nathaniel Prottas

When faced with the question of where to eat in Lexington Center, the ever-present Chinese and Italian restaurants are the two genres in majority. But, given a free block and a hearty appetite, where is the best place to eat?

According to junior Claudia Stumpf, "Chinese food is extremely expensive." And, of course, it's rarely a quick meal. After all, a free block only lasts fifty minutes. So in the contest between Chinese and Italian food restaurants, Marios's and Bertucci's emerge as the victors.

While both serve Italian food, Mario's and Bertucci's are indisputably different eating establishments. Mario's has been a trademark of Lexington for over 20 years. It is known for its home-style cooking and comfortable atmosphere. On the other hand, Bertucci's is a franchise and a relatively new addition to Lexington, famous more for its yuppie pizza than its home-style cooking. In deliberating between the two, price, of course, cannot be forgotten. Mario's famous "Bucket 'o' Shells, a tin of noodles with sauce and meatballs, costs a mere $9 and can feed up to six or seven. With bosom friends along for the meal,

FOOD, *continued on page 6*

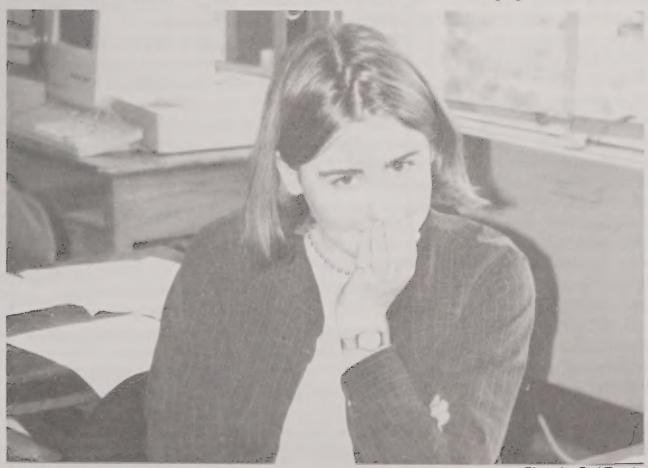


Photo by Carl Tortola

MORE THAN GAMES - After a round of Tetris, senior Robin Kelly tries to use her TI-85 to calculate whether to go to Mario's or Bertucci's.

Musket file photo

TRUST ME - At last year's state Science Olympiad award ceremony, junior Ken Weinstein (r) eagerly awaited results while sophomore Yuen-Jong Liu (l) smiled knowingly. Lexington placed first in Massachusetts.

Science team continues excellence, looks ahead

by Amal Dorai

The LHS Science team started the year trailing first place team Wayland, but pulled into Lexington's customary first place spot before the New Year. For the first three monthly meets of the West Suburban Science League (WSSL), Lexington held a close second place.

At the December meet, however, Lexington pushed ahead into first with a decisive burst of energy which will hopefully keep Lexington in the lead for the rest of the season. While Wayland's strengths have been the engineering events, Lexington has managed to match Wayland's success at engineering while accumulating several first place wins in pure-science events such as Chemistry Lab and Bio-Processes. With only one more meet left in the season and Lexington leading by six points, Lexington is heavily favored to become to the league champion.

The WSSL science meets consists of several different types of events each month. Usually, there is an engineering or design event, such as the Bungee Egg Drop, where an egg has to be dropped as close to a cement block as possible without breaking. Often, there are also Q&A type science events, where team members must answer questions about a specific topic disclosed to them a month earlier. Occasionally, there is a lab event, where the young scientists must apply their knowledge of a branch of science to laboratory work.

By December, Lexington was stealing first and second places in practically all the events. Even at the January meet, where the Lexington team arrived late and was allotted only half of the time give to the other schools, Lexington captured first place wins in Bio-Processes and Paper Airplanes, and third place in Chemistry Lab.

Although the West Suburban Science League has no further progression, such as a regional or state competition, the Science Olympiad State Competition is Lexington's long-term objective. Saro Getzoyan, co-captain of the science team, says that the team's "next goal should be to win the State Competition, so that we can go to the Nationals." The Science Olympiad State meet is a collection of events encompassing numerous subjects in science.

Last year, after winning a landslide victory at the state level, the team went to North Carolina to compete for the national title. At the national competition last year, Lexington placed in the top ten, sporting numerous medals in events testing everything from chemistry vocabulary to statistics. This year, the science team hopes to again claim the Massachusetts crown, and return to the national competition for the third consecutive year. Team member Rudi Faust confidently says, "with a little preparation we were able to dominate the WSSL. Now we should be prepared for the Olympiad." Judging by their performance during so far, the outlook is bright.

Juniors rekindle writing flame

NCTE, *continued from page 1*

Selected from a talented pool of applicants, juniors Rachel Rutishauser, Jessie Wright, Neil Chamberlain and Katherine Fisher were nominated this year to compete for the national Achievement Awards in Writing. The NCTE allows individual high school English departments to select a specific number of nominees for the competition, based upon the high schools total enrollment in grades 10, 11, and 12. In the last few years, Lexington has been permitted to increase the number of their nominees from two to four, due to increased enrollment at LHS.

This year the LHS English department conducted a short essay contest to help choose the nominees. Administered one morning before school, the examination asked the students to write on the impact of any recent court cases, in the form of high school graduation speech. One of the nominated students, Rachel Rutishauser wrote on how we all get so wrapped up in the hype, never really thinking about what the cases are really about. Reflecting back on her essay, Rutishauser remarked, "I was not that creative in what cases I chose, but I'd like to think that the creative part came in how I wrote about them."

The four nominees will now compete at the national level by submitting two works. For the Achievement Awards, they will have to present an impromptu essay written under teacher supervision and one sample of writing (prose or verse) that the student considers his or her best work, regardless of the amount of revision. A number of past LHS nominees have gone on to receive Achievement Awards in Writing including most recently Sarah Park, editor-in-chief of the *Musket*. In 1995, Marisa Cravens and Karsten Schoellner received this national honor, while Sarah Welch won in 1994.

Renewed effort to stop smokers is not enough

It seems as if Mr. Lanoue and the school administration are launching new efforts to curb smoking at the high school, as evidenced by Lanoue's trench-coat presence at the smoking "corner" during the mornings before school begins. Perhaps Lanoue seeks to create an atmosphere of intimidation, i.e., Mr. Principal knows you are smoking, so you should put that cigarette away. Or perhaps he is earnestly trying to help kids realize the negative consequences ofsmoking cigarettes, through little bits of conversation along the lines of: "Now kids, I know that you want to be out here smoking, but you know that it's bad for you, right?"

Whatever approach he is using, it seems to be an ineffective one.

With the utmost respect, it doesn't seem like Lanoue's efforts, no matter how well intentioned, are convincing students to stop smoking. This reflects a nationwide trend. In a study from the Centers for Disease Control, 11,631 students from 9th-12th grade were sampled, and "more than one third of the students admitted to tobacco usage in the past thirty days," in spite of growing numbers of students graduating from DARE, attending health education classes and watching anti-tobacco advertising on television.

Everyone seems to know all of the statistics involved with smoking, including increased risks of lung and heart disease, emphysema, cancer, etc. Efforts at Lexington High School to reduce student smoking have included enforcement of the state-wide, no smoking on school grounds policy, several smoking clinics at the beginning of the year, The Great American Smokeout activities, Lanoue spottings at the corner, and two years of health education. However, there seems to be a group of students determined to continue smoking every free moment that they get. Their reasons to continue smoking might be varied, ranging from "easing stress" to the seemingly inane but obvious cause: peer pressure. Or perhaps they haven't been given a truly serious solution to a habit they have been trying to kick.

Members of the administration standing out on the corner as a means to discourage teenage smoking seems rather piecemeal: if the principals of our school actually understand the negative side effects of teenage smoking on health, then they should be more vigorous with their actions. Obviously, they have no right to enforce policies restricting students who smoke off campus, but perhaps they should create more opportunities for students to seriously consider quitting, such as free smoking cessation clinics, open to students after school.

If the only signs that the administration shows towards discouraging smoking are the free and effortless ones, their policies, despite their intentions, merely trivialize the problem of underage smoking.

The statistics themselves seem rather grim in the fight against teenage smoking. The CDC reports that in the United States, tobacco consumption causes over 400,000 deaths per year and contributes to more than one of every six deaths. Approximately 3 million teenagers begin smoking cigarettes each year.

The proportion of adult smokers who began before the age of twenty is eighty percent, and the average age that they began to smoke is fourteen and a half. However, fifty-seven percent of students who smoke have tried to quit, meaning that students have interest in quitting, but many times their efforts have not been successful. Those students that are interested in kicking their habit need to have opportunities available if they want them to get professional help.

Nicotine addiction is a serious problem, and many non-smokers do not understand the frustration and effort involved in quitting smoking. A professional smoking-cessation clinic would allow those students that are interested in quitting to receive the help that they need in fighting their addictions. Lanoue's standing out on the corner hasn't served as a catalyst to stop students from smoking, as shown by the still strong numbers out on the corner.

If the only signs that the administration shows towards discouraging smoking are the free and effortless ones, their policies, despite their intentions, merely trivialize the problem of underage smoking. If stopping teenage smoking is important to the school, the school should invest in full-fledged efforts to encourage students to stop.

-Eun Young Choi

Bring back the 7-day wonder

One year has passed since the demise of the short-lived but much-loved seven day schedule. Lest the legacy die when the current sophomores graduate, the memory of those cherished five months must be remembered, hallowed, mourned. Ah, the seven-day cycle. Ah, the impetuousness of our days of youth, when the terms Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday grew obsolete. It was a time when anyone could ask "What day is it?" without shame, a time when confusion was embraced, and uncertainty the only certainty. A little piece of us all died when the seven-day schedule was taken away.

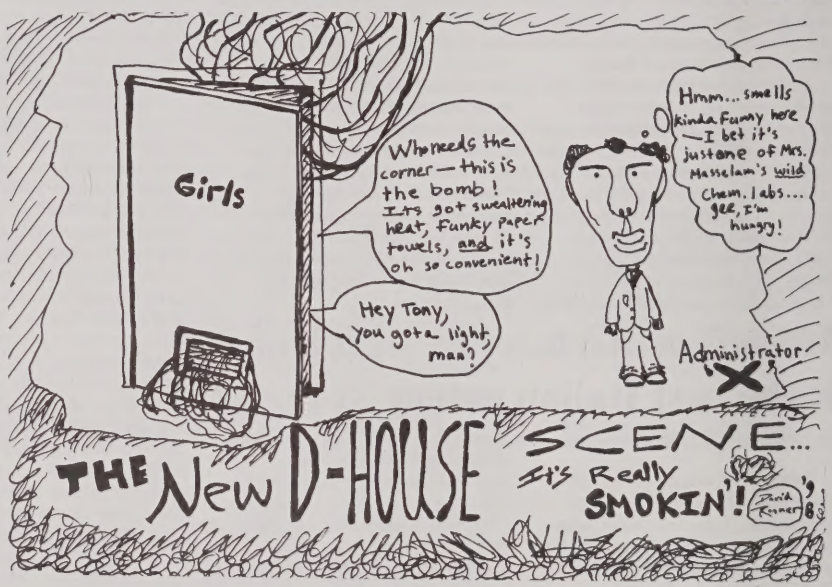
The cycle of seven scheduled days superimposed over a five-day working week was a breath of fresh air. Every week was different, new, exciting. No longer could Tuesday always be a bad day, or Monday's lack of classes prevent you from ever accomplishing anything over a weekend. The months flowed by so quickly we barely had time to appreciate them. Weekends were pleasant surprises, X-blocks euphoric, unexpected occasions.

The benefits of our lamentably lost schedule were not merely aesthetic, however, nor were they limited to students. Teachers of classes meeting on Mondays were no longer given short shrift by the abundance of Monday holidays. The seven-day schedule was flexible, able to ignore such irregularities. Each cycle was completed in its entirety, persevering through snow, ice, and birthdays of fraudulent explorers. Holidays could not be responsible for failure to complete a curriculum.

Alas, the simple beauty of the seven-day schedule was linked in our thoughts to the long-block days, whose questionable virtue contributed to general dissatisfaction with the schedule. While some teachers were thrilled to have a day for special activities — science classes had an extra day for labs, and some history and English teachers were able to incorporate more interactive learning into their classes — it proved nearly impossible for those teaching some other subjects to find a way to maintain interest for the entire hour and a half. It became clear that, while long blocks worked for some classes, and certainly would have helped to facilitate reaching 990 hours by cutting down on passing time, they could not work as a universal solution.

The schedule was, in the end, vehemently rejected by teachers and administration. As the faculty's opinion of the "experimental" schedule is unlikely to change within our years at the high school, there is little chance of the schedule returning any time soon. Yet if the memory stays alive, if we continue to remember and to mourn, if we never forget our days of blissful confusion, then, my friends, perhaps our influence will somehow, someday reinstitute the schedule that brought us so much uncertainty and so much glee.

-Ken Weinstein


Girls
Who needs the corner — this is the bomb! Its got sweltering heat, funky paper towels, and it's oh so convenient!
Hey Tony, you got a light, man?
Hmm... smells kinda funny here — I bet it's just one of Mrs. Maneiam's wild Chem. labs... gee, I'm hungry!
Administrator
THE New D-HOUSE SCENE...
It's Really SMOKIN'!
David Rosner '98

Cartoon by Dave Rosner

Racism's effect on Townes' dream

The following is a transcript of Senior President Rasheed Townes's speech which he delivered at the 6th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration on January 18 in Cary Memorial Hall.

Good afternoon esteemed members of the Lexington community, family, and friends. Today we honor Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. My topic today is racism and its devastating effect on my life. Dr. King, in his speech on civil disobedience, stated that racism is a great injustice that contradicts democratic principles.

Racism has affected my life in every conceivable way. In my young life, I have heard every imaginable slur, stereotype, and suffered many indignities. I recall hearing words like "monkey" being tossed around the playground like the Frisbees we used. I remember a few classmates starting a "Hate Rasheed" club, and on many occasions, a teacher calling me stupid in front of the class. Such injustices had a lasting and negative effect on my self-conscious, and still remain buried in my memory.

A few years ago, my friend and I entered a local store to buy soda. I was asked to leave after I had been in the store for only 5 minutes. I quickly left. After a week, my friend and I went with our fathers to speak with the store manager. To him it was mere coincidence, and normal, for me to be followed in a store while my friend, of a different race, went unbothered.

Two years ago, I decided a more active role in the community would give me solace and make me feel accepted. In the words of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., when the student involves himself, he involves the faculty and the community. Fortunately, I was able to win over many people and become president of my junior and senior classes allowing me to put my verbosity and amiability to use. Dr. King was right: concerning myself with the affairs of others, I would not preoccupy myself witht he misconceptions of other people. Then I could regain some of my lost dignity and confidence.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream that did not die on April 4, 1968. His words are a timeless plea for us to open a dialogue about discrimination, and to examine our relationships with each other.

I have been blessed by having a wonderful group of family and friends interested in my life. Including the new friends I have made this year, my world has been enriched with their encouragement. By sharing my experiences with them, I have a diversified outlook on life that is kept strong with their ties. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had this too. He has friends from all walks of life.

I encourage you to listen to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s address at the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony entitled, "Faith in America." Or perhaps his speech, Commitment to Non-Violence." My final charge to you is from another speech he gave:

"We must not become a nation of on-lookers. America must not remain silent. All of America must speak up. . . for the sake of the image, the idea, and the aspirations of America itself."

It is an honor and a privilege to be here today. Thank you.

Cartoon by Eric Hou

Unleveled Senior English classes hurt learning quality, passionate students

This year the English department decided to unlevel all the courses offered to Seniors. It is likely that there were many seemingly legitimate reasons that caused the department to take this action. Regardless of these reasons, the result is negative. Senior English students have only lost in the department\rquote s rash decision.

During the 1996-97 school year, roughly 70% of the then Junior class was enrolled in Honors English classes. To many teachers, this percentage represented a devaluation of standards they coined "honors inflation." It appeared to them that the English department's teachers were becoming too lax with their placement standards. Beginning Freshman year, teachers would allow a large amount of the class to enroll in Sophomore Honors classes. At the end of Sophomore year, almost all students who had received an A- or better in a level 1 class would be promoted to honors for the following year. The number of students in Honors English was so high that five Honors American Literature sections had to be offered, many of them filled past the maximum.

"Honors inflation" is a problem. It seems harsh to say that certain students hinder a class's progress, but this statement is true. Honors classes, I believe, were created for students who major interests are those class's subject matter. Honors Math has been developed for students who are not only proficient in math but also have a passion for math. A passion is necessary to keep motivation high. High motivation leads to a teacher's ability to conduct that class at a fast pace. It is difficult to think that 70% of the Senior class has this vigorous a passion for English.

"Honors inflation" is a problem because students who are not passionate about English are enrolled in Honors classes. Without passion, they do not have the motivation to do their work completely and well The entire class is forced to move at a slower pace.

Teachers have told their classes that the unleveling of Senior English classes is meant to stop the trend of "honors inflation." The English department's logic seems incomprehensible. An unleveling of classes will do away with any placement restrictions that were formerly employed. Any student can pick any class because there is no level or requisite grade. A removal of the levels combines students with passion, students with no passion, and students who hate English. The classes's paces can only get slower, the study less intensive. Attempting to solve the problem, the English department has made the situation worse.

Because all English classes are now unleveled, they are weighed equally in the grade point average. Students in classes that were formerly Honors, will still follow the same curriculum, do the same amount of work as their predecessors. Similarly, students enrolled in courses that were level 1 or 2 will follow their own curriculums. Nothing will be changed in the courses which will make them equal. They will still have different workloads. Regardless, the GPA represents them as equal. Even more ironically, the English department acknowledges the differences.

The 1997-1998 Program of Studies reads, "The courses are unleveled; their descriptions explain the challenges they offer. Please read the course descriptions carefully and select a class that both appeals to you [and] provides you with the academic skills you will need in the future." If some classes teach less academic skills, they are probably less demanding. This difference in demands will never be reflected in the GPA. Students are now almost punished for choosing a course that once honors.

In theory, a school where there is no pressure to take the Honors class and be smart seems nice. I do not think, however, that one department can effectively transform our school into this utopian ideal. Students' academic needs and desires are and will always be different. Students should be grouped by their interests; this is the only way for all students to learn.

-Oliver Sellers-Garcia

Musket

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Personnel Service promotes idleness

Personnel Service might be the most corrupt institution in this school. It exists for students who need to fulfill the 28-credit requirement but do not want to do so. It exists for students who should be in class but choose not to be. It exists, in short, for slackers.

It is surprising that more students are not enrolled in it.

At the beginning of the block, Student asks house secretary whether or not there is any work for him. Secretary responds that Student could pick up the mail in the main office, but only if he really wants to. Student, in rare moment of chivalry, decides to pick up the mail. One minute later, Student returns withe mail. Secretary tells him that there is no more work for him. Secretary dismisses student. Student wonders how he's going to spend his free block.

It is very, very surprising that more students are not enrolled in it.

Personnel Service does not pose a threat to the welfare of the school, it is its most serious threat. By undermining integrity, it rewards already lazy students with their favorite treat: more free time.

There is no rationale for having Personnel Service. Hardly ever do secretaries and counselors require the services of students. When they do require those services, they frequently bypass them, knowing that they can perform certain jobs better than students can, even when those jobs entail sealing envelopes or answering phone calls.

Furthermore, LHS offers a multitude of classes that do not require much outside work, such as Chorus and Ceramics. Those students who take Personnel Service to elude the workload of a normal class could easily sign up for such classes. Chorus Director Brian O'Connell has even reported a drop in enrollment over the past years in Chorus. Perhaps too many of his former students have succumbed to the alluring but demoralizing institution of Personnel Service.

[If the administration] is to recognize Personnel Service as legitimate credit, [it] could at least, say, not give homework on Tuesdays.

Nevertheless, the administration has not raised one finger against this heinous institution. Its existence—and it has existed for a very long time—show how clueless the administration really is. For all its efforts in requiring every student to take 28 credits and to attend school for 990 hours, it has neglected the loophole of Personnel Service. For Personnel Service counts as credit. If a student does Personnel Service four times a week for two semesters, he gets four credits. Four credits for doing absolutely nothing.

Schools are supposed to promote diligence, not idleness. Personnel Service promotes idleness. The connection is clear, yet the administration either does not see or refuses to see it. So if they are to recognize Personnel Service as legitimate credits, they could at least, say, not give homework on Tuesdays. But even that would not come close to matching the degree of idleness Personnel Services promotes. Not giving homework on Tuesdays would promote idleness for one night a week. Personnel Service promotes it for the whole year.

-Jon Amar

Letters to the Editor

GIVE COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR ANY DILIGENT ACT, EVEN EATING LUNCH

As noted in Mandar Muzamdar's article on community service (Jan. 5), the LHS Band is indeed a "prominent and outstanding group." One heartily affirms that the energy expenditure involved in exhaling air into a band instrument qualifies as "great service...to the community." Therefore, yours truly applauds Sir Muzumdar for bringing the dedication of the Lexington High School Band to the attention of the student body.

But why stop at participation in the Parade? Why not grovel for community service hours in a number of other arenas? For example, consider the diligence of the entire student body in attending lunch. After all, the effort that we put into dutifully purchasing our lunches from the cafeteria, or driving down to Aesop's, does creates jobs. Not to mention that it gives the faculty a break from enduring our fatuities.

Or consider the generosity of students in undergoing the turmoil of adolescence! Is this not the reason that the media has a "Generation X" to speak of?!

To jericho with such activities as helping the elderly, the disadvantaged and the infirm who are in need of assistance! This writer issues a call to arms! Let us trample upon the idea of beautifying the environment by picking up litter! Let us burn members of the school administration in effigy for rescinding its policy of giving community service credit for parade participation!

Let us sanctify the estimable Band Member Mandar Muzumdar for his delightful performance on the Scottish bagpipes on that "fateful day"!! Fellow students, revive the spirit of '76! Obtain cart loads of whips and coerce the administration into countng the minutes band members spend scratching their armpits or picking their nasal orifices for community service hours! And above all, appoint Monsieur Muzumdar to oversee such exertions!

-Ashwini Nadkarni
Class of 1999

Photo by Caroline Loomis

IRREPLACEABLE - After processing month-late transcript requests, registrar extraordinaire Ms. Russo knows she's the one who controls the future of LHS.

Young discusses LHS' future

FUTURE, *continued from page 2*

implemented, do you anticipate that there will need to be cut backs in some areas of the curriculum to allow space for the newly mandated programs?

Young: No I certainly hope not. The School Committee and I are firm on supporting the high school graduation requirements. We have tried to let the program drive the space needs, rather than allowing the space needs to dictate the curriculum. It would be a sad day if that philosophy were to be reversed.

Musket: What do you expect will happen in future years as the building continues to age and the population continues to increase?

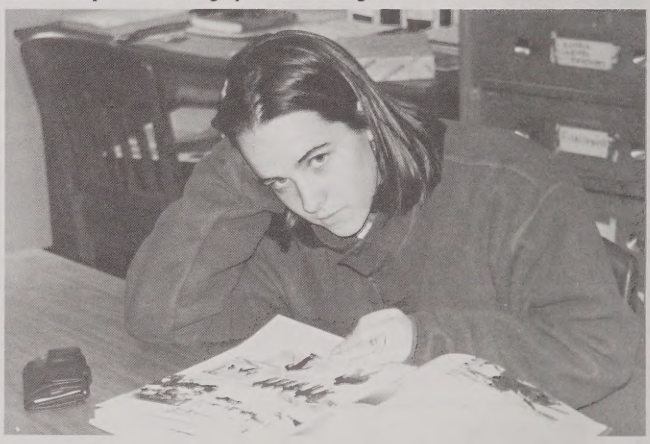
Young: You can expect that the voters will have another override question to vote on. We are involved now with various town committees, selectmen, and various individuals who had spoken out against the project, and we are trying tobe more aggressive about including them in the planning this time around so that we can shape a proposal that will garner more widespread support. If there is no proposal that the voters will accept at any time, then there will be no choice other then to compromise the integrity of the school program itself either by cutting back the curriculum or cramming 35 to 40 students into every classroom.

Musket: It has also been suggested that the science labs at the high school are in need of major improvement and are unsafe. Do you agree with that assessment?

Young: I agree with both those statements. The science labs at the high school are outdated, too small, and unsafe. I think the science program at the high school is very strong, and it's shameful that we are unable to provide the right facility so that teachers can do their best teaching and students can do their best learning.

Musket: Will the current physical state of the high school affect the outcome of the current high school re-accreditation process?

Young: It's possible. We don't know that for sure. If it is demonstrated that the physical plant cannot accommodate the student body and the curriculum, there is a strong possibility that the period of accreditation would be reduced, and we would be given a period of a few years to make improvements. There are too many other strengths at the high school for this single issue to threaten our accreditation.



MY MEALTIME BUDDY - Senior Kaitlin McDevitt did not, does not, and will not care where she goes to eat, as long as she can bring her skiing book to read.

Annual Winter Orchestra concert delights performers, audience alike

By Yuen-Jong Liu

As string specialist Janet Haas noted, the Winter Orchestra concert was "an education." For parents and students alike, the contrast between the performances was notable, but the quality of each was startling. Those in attendance learned about the depth and great potential of Lexington's music students.

On the evening of February 5, young musicians from the six elementary schools, two middle schools, and high school; elegantly clad string music specialists Janet Haas, Terrie Cohen, and Patricia Matthews; and excited parents and friends gathered in the Ralph Lord Gymnasium to share their budding-to-full-bloomed ability, talent, and enthusiasm for music.

Performers took turns as audience members while each of the five ensembles played. The Beginning Strings roused the audience with their stomps during "Cotton Country," a Southern folk song arranged by Higgins. The following group, the Advanced Strings, reminded the audience of next night's exciting event, the opening ceremonies of the 1998 Winter Olympics, with a traditional arrangement of the Olympic theme song.

While the All-Town Elementary Orchestra amazed the ears with its impressive tone quality and intonation, it also amazed the eyes with its well-coordinated bowing. (Even the seasoned string performers of the high school orchestra couldn't attain the precision bowing that the All-Town Elementary Orchestra had.) Next came the Combined Clarke/Diamond Middle School Orchestra which brought a step up in experience. The wind and percussion section were exciting in "The Little Brown Jug," arranged by Albert O. Davis, when two percussionists clacked out rhythms with their drumsticks. Throughout each performance, it was easy to see the expressions of delight on the faces of high school musicians and audience members. Senior Dan Myung recalled his great experiences: "Hearing the dissonant melodies from the elementary kids brought back my memories as a wee cellist who discovered that certain notes always drove my parents crazy." A smiling Katie Wasilewsky also noted that "one boy in the back [of the All-Town Elementary School Orchestra] played with such a straight bow. He's going to be good."

"[O]ne boy in the back [of the All-Town Elementary School Orchestra] played with such a straight bow. He's going to be good."

-Senior Katie Wasilewsky

The high school performance brought lots of smiles. First, when concertmaster Herb Chen stood to acknowledge conductor Haas, the entire orchestra stood with him. Next, Chen dropped his bow as he stood to tune. Finally, the orchestra played, and "It was good," remarked one normally jaded middle-schooler.

During Reinhold Gliere's "Russian Sailor's Dance from 'The Red Poppy,'" some of the little children started swaying to the pounding introduction which sounded like giant footsteps. And as kids left the gym, they hummed "'The Empire Strikes Back' Medley," which the orchestra had performed very, very well.

BUM-BUM-BUM BUM BA-BUM BUM BA-BUM - With a true "dark side of the Force" Imperial march, senior Jessica Tsai wields her lightsaber like Darth Vader.

Ambience and annoyance levels: two factors in restaurant choice

FOOD, *continued from page 6*

try a meager $1.50 a pop. But beware to those reluctant to eat outdoors: this meal is take-out only. On a nice day, when the sun is shining and the birds are chirping, satisfaction is served eating Mario's "Bucket" on the town Green.

"If you're into retro, Mario's is the place for you. You feel like you're in middle school again," says junior Suparna Gupta, when asked about the atmosphere. No truer word was ever spoken. It is undeniable that Mario's exudes middle school miasma.

However, ambiance is sacrificed for frugality. The menu contains simple Italian cooking, nothing fancy, no pretensions. Upon request, free bread is served on red and white checker paper plates. For high school students with holes in their pockets, such freebies are definitely a major plus.

But then again, Bertucci's also offers plenty of free food. Says Gupta, "It's a food give-away all right. You get free bread, free salad, free refills. What more could you ask for?" The free salad alone can be substituted for half a meal. But don't let its pomp and ballyhoo lead you astray.

One pizza at Bertucci's costs more than anything you could order at Mario's. The menu is loaded with romanticized descriptions of the food and "hearty soups." However, when it comes to seating arrangements, one rarely has to wait for a table at Bertucci's.

Unfortunately, this is not the case in the cramped seatery of Mario's, where eating next to seventh-graders is an unlucky prospect. Despite lighting and distasteful murals, it's really the food that counts.

Although Mario's and Bertucci's share the same national origin of their cooking, they certainly have chosen to interpret the menu and prices in strikingly different ways.

The next time you find yourself in the center, take a moment to savor the plethora of Italian restaurants available. For those who don't like Italian food, there is always a McDonald's down the road to Waltham.

OOPS! WE GOOFED!

In the January issue of the *Musket*, the photo of senior Saro Getzoyan was improperly credited to Dan Myung, when in fact the photo was taken by Dave Rosner. The *Musket* sincerely regrets any inconvenience this error may have caused.

Injury-prone Girls' B-ball looks towards tournament

By Becky Ticotsky

Destiny has been unkind to the basketball Minutemaids this season.

Knee injuries to two key players, the strength of the Middlesex League, and unlucky breaks during the final seconds of close games have contributed to Lexington's seemingly mediocre record (5-5 through January 22).

Sophomore center Rebecca Ginns, a prominent scorer and rebounder, is out for the year with torn ligaments in her knee. Coach Laura Lasa called the loss of Ginns a "back-breaker" since her ability "just gets so much better game by game."

Junior guard Shanel Mercer has missed most of the season with a knee injury, as well. In Mercer's absence, sophomore Miriam Godfrey has handled the point guard position and impressed Lasa with her poise under pressure.

Despite its ailments, Lexington has kept games very close against tough league competition. With the exception of state champion Wakefield, the 'Maids' losses have been by fewer than five points. The young team fell behind in the first halves of nearly all of its first ten games and had to make valiant comebacks after the intermissions.

"They don't quit," said Lasa.

"[The girls] don't quit. When they get a little confidence there isn't a game we're not in."

-Coach Laura Lasa

"When they get a little confidence, there isn't a game we're not in."

At press time, Lexington's .500 record was just barely on pace for tournament qualification. The Minutemaids' quest to make the postseason for the first time since 1995 would be much easier if they stopped "thinking the other team's much better than they are," Lasa said.

The core of the team is its senior co-captains, Andrea Pawliczek and Kara McManus.

McManus, a forward, has been among the top scorers and rebounders in all of Lexington's games. The star of the season, however, is Pawliczek, who on January 17 broke the LHS girls' basketball career scoring record of 1,024.

The versatile senior can play any position and leads the team in assists with about seven per game. Without her unselfish dishing, Pawliczek could have surpassed the 14-year-old record sooner.

"[Other players] are getting the ball to her," said Lasa, when Pawliczek needed two more points. "She sometimes passes up shots."

In addition, since Pawliczek has led the Middlesex League in scoring for the past two years, opposing coaches often double team her, making her record even more remarkable.

Photo by Caroline Loomis

Photo by Dan Myung

WHO'S THE (WO)MAN? - Seniors Alex Samuels and Allison Stebe smile with pride at their athletic accomplishments.

Samuels and Stebe reveal personal likes and dreams

By Becky Ticotsky

In the rarely publicized sport of wrestling, LHS's Alex Samuels has been pinning down opponents throughout the state. Next year, Samuels, who is currently ranked first in Division 1 and third in all of Massachusetts in the 130-pound weight class, will attend the University of Chicago, which recruited him for wrestling. Alex revealed this:

Favorite subject: Theology
Least favorite subject: Math
Favorite pro athlete: Italian soccer player Ronaldo
Favorite TV show: *The Simpsons*
Favorite movie: *Dr. Strangelove*
Favorite food: Thai (only in the off-season!)
Musical taste: Jazz, especially John Coltraine, T.S. Monk, and Miles Davis.
Most exciting sports moment: Beating a state finalist wrestler in overtime in a dual meet last season.
Athletic honors received: varsity soccer since sophomore year, wrestling captain, won Lexington wrestling tournament (22 teams) twice, outstanding wrestler at the Lexington tournament last year, League champion last season.
Which person(s) (past or present) would you choose to have dinner with?: Jesus Christ, James Joyce, and Abraham of the Bible.
What would you change about LHS?: Longer lunches and no gym requirement for athletes.

By Alex Sherman

As excitement starts to brew over the Winter Olympics in Nagano, women's hockey is starting to gain popularity. Allison Stebe, who achieved All-Scholastic honors as a junior last year as well as tournament and league all-star, has helped lead the LHS girls' hockey team this season as well. Here's what she has to say:

Favorite subject: History
Least favorite subject: Physics
Favorite TV show: *Seinfeld*
Favorite movie: *Stand By Me*
Musical taste: I like a wide variety of music, most everything.
Career aspirations: I'd like to be a psychologist.
College choices: I got into St. Michaels, but I'm also looking into Hartwick, Dickenson, Colorado College, and Smith.
Most exciting sports moment: Scoring a game-winning goal in a field hockey game against Woburn this past year.
Which person(s) (past or present) would you choose to have dinner with?: Oprah Winfrey, since she's done a lot with charities and promoting things like books, and I think she would be really interesting to talk to.
What would you change about LHS?: More student-teacher relationships where the teachers get to know the students better and where there is a real understanding between both parties.

Boys' Hockey find their niche

By John Sullivan

After a string of disheartening losses and ties, particularly a 10-0 loss at home to Middlesex power Belmont, the Minutemen were searching for a solid win that would point them in a positive direction. Making an arduous weeknight journey to Natick would prove to be worthwhile, as Lexington staged a 6-0 pummeling. Balanced offensive production among Lexington's forward lines combined with stellar goaltending performances by Alex Olson enabled the Minutemen to notch their first win. Coach Dave Fimiani was impressed by the club's resilience in securing their first overall victory. He hoped the team's newfound winning spirit would carry over to the next game versus arch-rival Burlington. He was correct, sort of. Going into the third period, Lexington held a slim lead, but the Red Devils scored two goals in the final four minutes of the game, sending Lexington home with a 3-2 defeat.

It would have been easy to give up and throw in the towel on the 1997-98 season, but the Minutemen refused. Versus Wakefield, Lexington secured a 1-1 tie at Hayden in a game which featured a defensive stalemate.

The Minutemen were desperate to resume their winning ways. After a grueling week of practice and preparation, they would host state-ranked opponent Winchester. Depsite a solid first period of work by Lexington, solid Sachem goaltending kept the Minutemen scoreless. However, in the final two sessions of the game, the floodgates opened. Gathering rebounds and making key plays in front of Winchester's net paid large dividends. Meanwhile, junior netminder Mike McGirr, heir to the LHS pipes, stuffed but one shot. The end result: a 5-1 Lexington upset in front of an elated home crowd.

Lexington's current overall record is 2-5-3, a history not at all indicative of the quality of the team. With the postseason fast approaching, the Minutemen must win approximately three-quarters of their remaining schedule. Despite a wealth of individual talent, the Minutemen know that they are the dark horse of the Middlesex League and therefore are not turning a lot of heads. But according to Coach Fimiani, that's just fine.

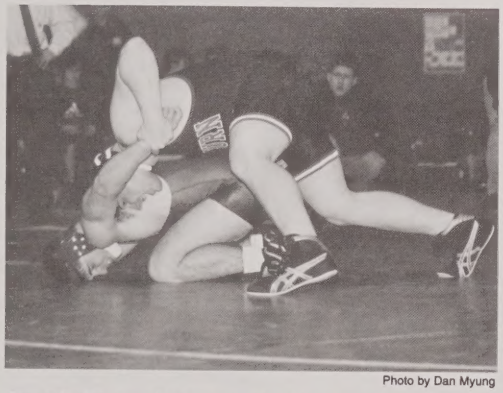


Photo by Dan Myung

GET OFF ME - Seemingly crushed by a Woburn behemoth, senior Nick Storch collects his Herculean strength for a sudden move.

Star wrestlers lead team to victory

By Nick Roetter

Throughout the first half of the wresting season, Lexington has shown that they are a force to be reckoned with. Although the Minutemen lost to arch-rival and Middlesex league leader Winchester, the squad has been able to finish extremely high in tournament action mainly due to the excellent performances from a few of their top guns. At the Catholic Memorial tournament, which was attended by sixteen teams from around the region on January 24, the Minutemen rode first place finishes from four competitors all the way to an impressive overall second place showing behind winner Xaverian. Leading the way with first place finishes were seniors Ricardo Rullo and Alex Samuels, who each won their weight class of 135 and 130, respectively. Juniors Scott Cokely and David Kelly showed they are also prime time performers with their wins in the 103 and 140 weight classes. Senior Joe McCann placed fourth at 171, Chris "Animal" Wofse lived up to his nickname as he took home the bronze at 160, and freshman phenom Matt Kelly showed why he's such a valuable addition to this year's team with his fourth place finish at 112.

"We're just in top condition. We're in the field house before school running and working out extra on snow days. It's starting to pay off."

-Junior Scott Cokely

Lexington's tournament success is based on major talent in different weight classes. As Cokely explains. "We're just in top condition. We're in the field house before school running and working out extra on snow days. It's starting to pay off."

And paying off it is, as Rullo, Samuels, Kelley and Cokely have only 10 combined losses while earning close to 100 wins individually. Performing superbly is Samuels (see question & answer segment), who is showing his senior leadership skills as the only undefeated competitor on the squad. If the Minutemen are to accomplish their long term goals of winning the league tourney and advancing deep into the state tournament, their superstars must rise to the occasion, just as they have been doing this season.

Girls' and Boys' Track pullling ahead of the pack

By Carolyn Shank

Although three dual meets remain, it is almost a shoe-in that the Lexington girls' indoor track team will be the 1997-98 Middlesex League champions. This is a feat that has not been achieved by the Minutemaids since 1989. Victories over perennial league powerhouse Reading on December 27 and a surprisingly strong and much-improved Belmont team on January 17 have virtually secured the girls the championship. The team's remaining meets should not pose any problems for the Maids.

The Minutemaids survived an early scare in the Belmont meet, where the Lady Marauders were actually ahead by a score of 18-9 at one point. However, commanding performances by Adriana Schick (44.1 seconds, a new field house record) and Amie Shei (45.5) in the 300, Carolyn Shank (6.7) and Kathy Yang (7.0) in the 45-yard hurdles, and Grace Licorish (5.9) and Ebony Jack (5.9) in the 45-yard dash clinched the victory for the Maids.

The girls also performed well at the annual State Coaches Meet at the Reggie Lewis Track in Boston. Highlights included Grace Licorish's second-place finishes in both the dash and the long jump, Carolyn Shank's second place in the hurdles, and the 4 by 400 meter relay team's fourth place finish (4:13).

Although a league championship unfortunately is not in the cards for the boys' track team, the Minutemen have had some good performances, improving their overall record to 3-2-1. Nick Roetter in the mile, Gates Joseph in the 2-mile, and Josh Muller in the 600 have continued to impress.

Victories over perennial league powerhouse Reading...and a surprisingly strong and much-improved Belmont team have virtually secured the girls the championship.

On January 17, the Minutemen traveled to the Reggie Lewis Center for their State Coaches Meet, where many of the team members performed well. The most notable performance was Josh Muller's second place in the 600 meters. He ran a phenomenal time of 1:23.04, with less than a tenth of a second separating him from the winner of the event. Muller has continued to shine during the indoor season, and great things are expected from him.

The 4 by 400 meter relay team also performed well at the Coaches meet, taking fourth place in 3:31. The relay was run by Erik Wang, Ethan Fried, Eric Lejoie, and Muller. Other impressive performances included Nick Roetter's 4:39 mile, Jay Kasparian's 2:48.6 in the 1,000 meters, and Josh Kessler's 2:49 in the 1,000. Kessler's time is especially impressive because it is six seconds faster than his previous best time.

The Lexington track teams certainly have much to look forward to as the big meets at the end of the season get nearer. Both teams have legitimate hopes for good performances at these meets. It will definitely be interesting to see how the season plays itself out.

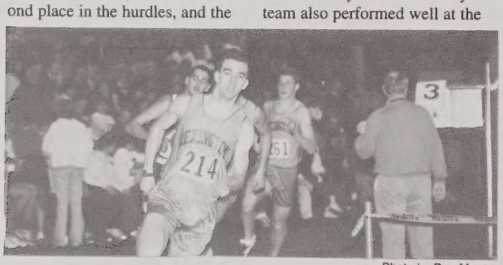


Photo by Dan Myung

AND AWAY WE GO - Senior Josh Muller puts on an extra burst of speed for the finish line, with sophomore Kevin Wolf in pursuit.

Photo courtesy Yearbook

NO MATCH FOR ME - The opposition doesn't even faze senior Taj Washington's steady dribbling on his way to the basket.

LHS Boys' Basketball above the competition

By Alex Sherman

As the regular season comes to a close, the Lexington boys varsity basketball team is sitting pretty atop of the Middlesex League by themselves. When the Minutemen lost to Wakefield 102-100, at home in double overtime, Coach Bob Farias became worried. "We're 8-0 coming into the game, but it's all smoke and mirrors," Farias said after the Wakefield loss. However, the Minutemen have taken it upon themselves to prove that the quick start was not just a mirage. With back to back wins over Winchester and Watertown, both away games, Lexington has shown that they have the resilience needed to be Middlesex League champions. In addition, Wakefield lost to Belmont the game after their heroic victory over Lexington. The Warriors loss means that Lexington is again all alone in first place in the Middlesex League, at 10-1.

"[Watertown was] one of the most courageous wins we've had in years and years and years. There was a lot at stake, staying in first place against a good 9-3 team—it was a great win for us," Farias said. "This was a real gut check for us." Farias was impressed by his team's emotional effort against Watertown because of their gutsy comeback in the second half of the ballgame. The Red Raiders dominated the first half of play, soaring to an 11 point half-time lead. However, led by the inside domination of Taj Washington and the outside shooting of Jason Hirschhorn, Lexington roared back. Hirschhorn hit four second half three-pointers, en route to 17 second half points. In mounting their comeback, they would swing the ball around the perimeter until Hirschhorn found a good look at the basket. When he did, the result was almost always three points. Washington ended the game with 21 points, despite a sprained wrist, and Hirschhorn ended with a career high 23.

"[Watertown was] one of the most courageous wins we've had in years and years and years...This was a real gut check for us."

-Coach Bob Farias

The win put Lexington at 10-1, but the Minutemen are not perfect yet. One thing Coach Farias would like to work on is getting out to an early lead, something his team failed to do against Watertown. "I don't mind helping out the needy, but [Watertown] is not that needy. I don't know why, every game we fall behind, but it's like we work for United Way. We try to give it away and help everybody. I'd like to get a lead early one of these times."

Lexington may make it difficult on themselves, and they often come close to giving their coaching staff heart attacks, but Farias and his assistants will continue to be happy as long as his team keeps winning. With the Watertown win, Lexington clinched a playoff berth, so Lexington has already cleared one hurdle which they had not been able to jump for the past two years. However, the Blue and Gold are not done yet. If they can win the Middlesex League, goal number two will be accomplished. The only remaining task will be to go on and win the State Title. If Lexington brings their "A" game, they just may have the tools to do it.

Undefeated Boys' Swim team dives in for title

By Jonathan Amar

Along with the conclusion of last year's boys' swim team season came the departure of seventeen seniors — among whom four had qualified for states. 1997-1998 seemed, more than anything else, to be a season to rebuild.

And so it appeared in the boys' first meet, which the team nearly lost to a lackluster Burlington squad, 94-86. Though sophomore Evan Gilbert won both the 50 and 100 yard freestyle events, the rest of the swimmers performed according to their experience — the majority of the team is comprised of underclassmen.

Yet with the acquisition of senior Charles Lock, one of the best swimmers in New England, 1997-1998 no longer seemed a season to rebuild; it seemed a season to repeat as league champions.

In the 100 yard butterfly Lock boasts a time of 54 seconds, five seconds faster than the second best swimmer in the Middlesex League. In all of the freestyle events, except 500 yards, Lock is the league's fastest swimmer as well.

But Lock's shoulders, however broad they may be, were not the only reasons Lexington jumped to a 6-0 start. Captains Jay Corr and Milan Raj have consistenly posed a double threat: Corr in the 200 and 500 yard freestyles and Raj in the 200 yard individual medley and 100 yard butterfly. Sophomore Alex Talarico, who competes in the breast-stroke, and junior utility swimmer Ken Longo have secured countless points for Lexington.

And along with underclassmen Bobby Herman, Doug Hartunian, Dane Stadus, Joel Kress, and Ravin Ratan, the boys have made quick meals of every league team save Belmont, against whom they had yet to swim, as of press time.

Girls' Hockey sticking together

By Eleanor Finnegan

You may not see the girls' ice hockey team dressing up in outfits as crazy as the volleyball team, but this doesn't mean that they have any less team spirit, maybe just more fashion sense. It takes a very dedicated group of athletes to attend 5:45 A.M. practices at a rink that isn't even in Lexington. In their inaugural season as a varsity sport, the girls' hockey team have already outshined their male counterparts.

Having won four of their last seven games, the girls are at the top of their division. Their most recent victory was against Fontbonne Academy. Junior Crystal Caouette scored a goal early in the game to give the First Ladies a lead. The Fontbonne team netted one to tie the score, but with a goal by Jamie Whittaker in the third period, the Lexington pucksters pulled away with the 2-1 victory.

On January 21, the team lost to a powerful Acton-Boxborough team, a team that senior varsity team member Caroline Loomis claims to be "one of the best teams around." Although the First Ladies played well, the final score was 10-2.

According to the girls, their recent success is largely due to the increased intensity that comes with finally being a varsity sport. Now instead of practising merely two or three times a week, the girls practice everyday, as late as nine at night, or as early as quarter to six in the morning. The practices are often held in Arlington. It is now obvious from this commanding start that the Lexington girls' hockey team is very serious. The team has truly taken off, and it will be interesting to see how the team progresses as the season goes on.